

Putting the 'Smash' Into Trash

Continuous hydraulic compactor helps reduce waste-management expenses

By Marianne Wilson

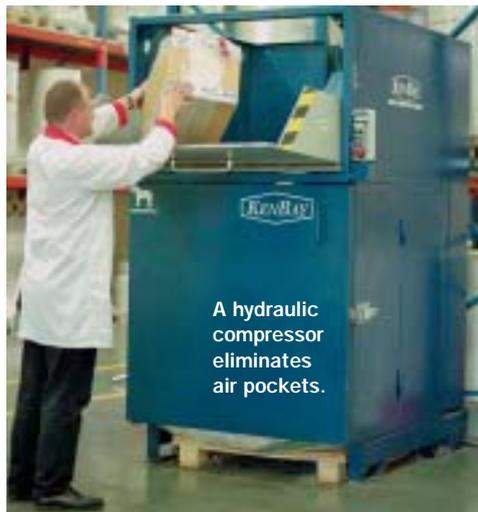
Garbage can be a huge source of frustration for retailers of all sizes. The vast amounts of waste generated by a business can, at times, become almost unmanageable. A new industrial-waste compactor aims to ease the problem by compacting the entire contents of a traditional waste dumpster into one polyethylene bag.

The compactor, the Rotorpac (distributed by KenBay, Mendam, N.J.), is just now being introduced in the United States. It has a footprint the size of a standard pallet (4 ft. by 5 ft.) and is easy to install. The mechanics are simple. A heavy-duty polyethylene bag is placed inside the machine. Wet and/or dry trash is deposited through the top of the machine, sealed and then removed from the bottom after it's been compacted. Unlike traditional compactors, which generally spring back after crushing waste, the Rotorpac features continuous hydraulic compaction.

One of the first installation sites for the compactor is the Queens, N.Y.-based factory of lighting-fixture manufacturer Louis Baldinger & Sons. Most of the

trash at the facility consists of excess scraps from production and unneeded packing materials (the company imports many materials). A rise in production at the factory brought about a rise in waste, and the company found its balers were just not up to the job.

"The balers are OK with clean



refuse such as cardboard, but once you get involved with different stuff, they don't function well," says Thomas Cetta, VP, operations, Louis Baldinger & Sons.

As a remedy, Baldinger installed the Rotorpac. It uses the compactor contin-

uously during the day to meet its trash-disposal needs. The company still owns a baler, but rarely uses it.

Along with increased reliability, the equipment has reduced waste-related costs. Baldinger estimates it is saving from \$200 to \$260 per month in trash-bin fees, energy costs and labor costs by using the Rotorpac, which, unlike a traditional compaction system, does not require a full-time operator.

Cetta says that Baldinger now only makes one drop a day in the trash container. In the past, employees would throw in baled cardboard without making sure that the bottom was being filled. Often, Cetta says, the cardboard would catch on something and everything would accumulate at the top, with nothing on the bottom. The end result: A large part of the container's load was taken up with air.

"It was a huge waste," Cetta explains.

That doesn't happen with the Rotorpac. With a 6:1 compaction rate, it effectively eliminates the inefficiency of traditional containers.

"The Rotorpac takes the guesswork out of managing our trash," Cetta says. ■

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Simon Says: Recycle

Simon Property Group is committed to diverting the amount of waste that goes into landfills. The developer has entered into a strategic partnership with Waste Management whereby the supplier will oversee waste removal and management for more than 190 Simon malls and centers nationwide. In addition, the two companies are working together to develop a comprehensive environmental-services program that will benefit Simon's tenants.

"An enhanced recycling program is being developed," said Scott Mumphrey, president, Simon Management Group, Indianapolis.

The first offering is an expanded corrugated recycling program. Initiated in April 2004, Simon estimates a total of 6,962 tons of cardboard were

recycled through October 2004 using dedicated cardboard compactors.

"In addition, another 6,919 tons of cardboard and paper were recycled through smaller, front-load containers," says Les Morris, a spokesperson for Simon.

In October, Simon held recycling events in seven cities, inviting the public to drop off used electronic equipment at its participating centers. All told, a total of 62,136 lbs. of electronics was collected.

As part of the program, Waste Management has initiated an extensive training program at key Simon locations to instruct cleaning staffs in cost-effective material-handling techniques to enhance the recovery of recyclables.